FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 AUGUST 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Khomeyni on War — Iran must continue the war with Iraq until victory is achieved, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni stated in a 24 August speech broadcast by Tehran radio. He asserted that victory is "near" but added that it will come sooner if the nation mobilizes itself "in the true sense of the word" and channels more resources to the battlefronts. He emphatically rejected any idea of allowing the war to be ended through arbitration, stressing that Iran must learn from history and refuse to submit to either an imposed peace or an imposed arbitration. Khomeyni contended that President Saddam Husayn has become "stupefied" by the blows he has received in the war but warned that the Iraqi leader could become insane, further aggravate the situation, and violate the Shi'ite shrines in Karbala' and Najaf.

Al-Asad Message on Gulf — Visiting Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam delivered a message to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad 23 August, IRNA reported, noting that this was the second message from Al-Asad to Khamene'i in recent days. SANA said the message dealt with "the current escalation in the Gulf region" and Radio Monte Carlo linked Khaddam's visit to Tehran with Syrian mediation efforts to prevent a widening of the scope of the war in the Gulf. A commentary by Tehran radio's Arabic service said Iranian officials have told the Syrians that Iran does not want to expand the range of the war, though it has "not disregarded" the support given by "reactionary regimes in the region" for Saddam Husayn. Earlier, in a sermon reported by Tehran radio, President Khamene'i stressed that the whole export of oil in the Persian Gulf might be jeopardized if Iran were to make full use of its capabilities in countering the threat posed against oil tankers and platforms. However, Iran still desires friendly relations with Gulf states even though it knows how much aid they are giving to Iraq, he stated.

In another Gulf development, a GCC statement cited by Kuwait radio announced that GCC foreign and oil ministers will discuss the repercussions of the Iran-Iraq war on Gulf security during a 26 August meeting.

Military Activity — Iraqi aircraft raided pumping stations in the Ahvaz and Marun oil fields in separate attacks 22 August, according to a military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio. The next day Iranian warplanes raided an Iraqi garrison and fuel tanks near Diyala, northern Iraq, IRNA announced, citing a joint staff communique. Acknowledging activity over Diyala, an Iraqi communique aired on Voice of the Masses radio contended that Iraqi aircraft intercepted an Iranian F-4 in the area and forced it to flee.

Iranian Criticism of Turkey, Saudi Arabia

In his 24 August speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Khomeyni sharply criticized the secularist system established by Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic. Meanwhile, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio expressed "concern and regret" over the recent Turkish air attack against Kurdish targets in northern Iraq, stating that Iran "cannot remain indifferent" to such developments and calling on the Turkish Government to put an end to its operations in Iraq. Turkey subsequently defended its action in a Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Ankara radio, asserting that the 15 August operation against "terrorists" was "erroneously interpreted in various countries." The operation was carried out in accordance with the hot pursuit principle of international law, the Turkish statement stressed, and it has no connection with the Iran-Iraq war.

As for relations with the Saudis, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani viewed the arrest of a number of Iranian pilgrims in the Kingdom as a "plot to distort the glorious demonstrations held by Iranian pilgrims in Mecca," Tehran radio reported. He criticized the Saudi authorities for failing to inform Iranian officials of the arrests and warned that the incident may prove "costly" for bilateral relations.

Al-Asad in Libya; Tripartite Meeting in Damascus

Syrian President al-Asad, accompanied by Vice President Khaddam, arrived in Banghazi for talks with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi 24 August, Damascus radio reported. In their first two talks the leaders discussed current developments in the Arab region, the escalation of the "Zionist-imperialist onslaught," the efforts made by hostile forces to break Arab steadfastness, and bilateral relations, the radio continued.

Meanwhile, the Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian foreign ministers began meeting in Damascus, SANA stated, noting that the talks are designed to bolster the three countries' joint struggle against "imperialism and Zionism" and to promote relations of friendship and cooperation among them. In remarks broadcast by Tehran radio, Iran's foreign minister linked the meeting with efforts to coordinate the three countries' stands at the forthcoming nonaligned summit conference. Iraq's Voice of the Masses radio contended that the three countries are meeting in Damascus in order to coordinate their "machinations against Iraq and the Arab nation."

Tunisia

Relations With Libya — Tunisian sources cited by the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Watan* revealed that unannounced negotiations are under way between Tunisia and Libya in an attempt to ease tension between the two countries, KUNA reported. The talks, which reportedly began in Switzerland 19 August, are focusing on ways to resume economic relations and compensate Tunisia for the financial losses it incurred as a result of the rift in relations last year. The recent reopening of land routes between the two countries is an additional indicator of reconciliation, *Al-Watan*

added. Tripoli radio mentioned the *Al-Watan* story in a brief report, noting the paper's disclosure that there is a "steady improvement" in Tunisian-Libyan relations and that bilateral economic cooperation is being studied as a matter of priority.

Internal Affairs — Prime Minister Rachid Sfar announced in a statement broadcast by Tunis radio that President Habib Bourguiba has approved measures which oblige high public officials to submit details of their property before assuming new responsibilities. The prime minister said this will help establish honest practices and allow officials to work in an atmosphere of confidence, free from suspicion and rumors. Bourguiba also approved measures to make public employees work harder and authorized a dialogue between the two largest trade unions in order to achieve trade union unity, Sfar disclosed.

Jordan

SAM Defenses — Jordan recently began receiving Soviet SAM-8 batteries and intends to ask the USSR for SAM-11's, the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad* stated in a report cited by WAM.

PLO Offices — Kuwait's *Al-Watan* reported that the office of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is one of five PLO offices in Amman which Jordan will allow the PLO to reopen. The report, which was carried by KUNA, said the Jordanians will allow the PLO to name 40 officials to run the offices.

Palestinian Contacts

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat 24 August, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO, which added that the two discussed Palestinian developments and the Gulf war. In Libya, Col al-Qadhdhafi received Palestinian National Salvation Front leaders Sa'id Musa Muragha and Khalid al-'Amlah, Tripoli radio reported.

Lebanon

The Amal Movement arrested two gunmen who attacked a Finnish UNIFIL post in the south 24 August, Beirut radio reported. The attack followed a 22 August mortar bombardment of another UNIFIL position in which two French soldiers were wounded, according to the radio. Voice of Lebanon radio speculated that France may be planning to evacuate part of its UNIFIL contingent from Lebanon. Amal officials in the south subsequently reaffirmed their opposition to the attacks on UNIFIL and stressed that Amal will take action to prevent them, according to Beirut radio.

On the political level, Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Samir Ja'ja' asserted in remarks broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon that the first practical step toward resolving the Lebanese crisis is for all foreign armies to leave the country, adding that priority must be given to negotiations with the parties concerned to achieve this. Ja'ja' also confirmed his support for the dialogue process that began recently in the Chamber of Deputies.

Syria

Voice of Lebanon radio claimed in a 23 August report that the Syrian authorities foiled an attempted revolt in the Armed Forces in the past 2 weeks, adding that Syrian special units were withdrawn from Lebanon in order to prevent further attempts and that mass arrests were made of military personnel.

Libya

A "sting" operation led by a "renegade West German trader" tricked a UK airline company into delivering to Libya two Airbus A-310 aircraft equipped with advanced electronic gear, according to a UK Foreign Office statement reported by AFP.

Egypt

Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Petrovskiy stressed the USSR's willingness to participate in an international conference on the Middle East with all "peace-loving" countries, in a Cairo press conference reported by MENA. Petrovskiy added that his visit and talks with Egyptian officials focused on "urgent" issues of mutual interest, particularly those pertaining to the Middle East. He said the recent peace proposal by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn provided a solution to the Gulf war, according to KUNA, which called this statement the first signal of Soviet support for the Iraqi president's plan. An agreement to increase bilateral trade was later signed, MENA disclosed.

MENA mentioned the current U.S.-Egyptian naval and air force joint exercises in a brief report which noted that they would take place in international waters and in Egyptian airspace 24-28 August. Syria's *Al-Ba'th* denounced the maneuvers in a commentary reported by Damascus radio, accusing the United States of planning "military provocations."

Israel

Peres to Cameroon — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres departed for Cameroon 25 August, according to Jerusalem radio, which added that army medical personnel accompanying him will assist victims of the recent toxic gas leak in the West African country.

Shin Bet Pardons — President Hayim Herzog pardoned another seven Shin Bet members, according to IDF radio, which cited the president's statement that the pardons should be viewed not as a new decision, but as the logical continuation of the previous pardons.

Ramallah Terrorists Detained — Security forces captured a "terrorist" squad in Ramallah and demolished the home of one of them, Jerusalem radio reported. The group is implicated in several attacks over the past 9 months, the radio continued.

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto and eight other imprisoned People's Party leaders face sedition charges which carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, Karachi police sources disclosed to AFP 24 August. Bhutto is accused of instigating the people to rise against

the government. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo told journalists in Lahore that those indulging in subversive activities will be dealt with in accordance with the law, Karachi radio reported. He asserted that the government has allowed all political parties to hold processions and meetings to freely express their views, maintaining that there is "no restriction" on political activities as long as these do not jeopardize national interests.

As for the protests against Bhutto's arrest, official sources in Islamabad cited by AFP stated that two people were killed and four were wounded in a 22 August clash between police and demonstrators in the southern town of Tando Adam. The authorities have decided to provide armed escorts for food and fuel trucks in and out of Karachi to counteract the disruption of supplies caused by opposition roadblocks, the agency added.

DRA

The Soviet Union will start withdrawing 8,000 troops from Afghanistan this fall, the president of the *Novosti Press Agency* disclosed in a Japanese press interview cited by AFP. Meanwhile, the mujahidin announced that they killed more than 80 Soviet soldiers and captured 92 during recent fighting in Badakhshan, according to Karachi radio. The radio also noted Pakistan has protested to the DRA over cross-border shelling by DRA forces which killed a Pakistani citizen 21 August.

Sudanese-Ugandan Relations

The Sudanese authorities helped Ugandan rebels cross into Uganda to launch their abortive attack at Bibia 21 August, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni asserted in remarks reported by Kampala radio. Describing Sudan's conduct as "treachery," Museveni urged the Sudanese to control their side of the border and called on friendly countries to pressure the Sudanese Government to fulfill its obligations in this respect.

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New Party Launched in Indira Gandhi's Name

BK230350 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] The former Karnataka chief minister, Mr Gundu Rao, launched a new party named Indian National Congress Indira Gandhi at a convention in Bangalore yesterday. The former Union finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, and Dr Shishir Bose also addressed the meeting. In a resolution, the convention regretted that fissiparous tendencies are raising the ugly head harming the integrity of the nation.

Formed by Ruling Party Dissidents

NC222137 Paris AFP in English 2121 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 22 (AFP) — Dissidents from Congress-I, India's governing party, formed a new political group Friday and called for the dismissal of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for "failing to guard the country's integrity," *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said.

The new party, christened the Indian National Congress Indira Gandhi, was launched at a dissidents' convention in the southern city of Bangalore — the venue of two previous splits in Congress-I.

It is composed of former Congress politicians who call themselves loyalists of Indira Gandhi, the assassinated former premier and Mr. Gandhi's mother.

Former Indian Finance Minister Pranam Mukherjee, who was expelled by Mr. Gandhi four months ago on the charge of anti-party activities, led a bitter attack against the prime minister, charging him with strengthening "anti-national" elements by signing a series of peace accords, PTI said.

He was referring to agreements signed by Mr. Gandhi to bring peace to the northern state of Punjab, where Sikh militants are campaigning for an independent nation, and to end a 20-year guerrilla war in the northeastern territory of Mizoram.

The new party is to be headed by Gundu Rao, a regional politician who also was expelled by Mr. Gandhi earlier this year, PTI said. Mr. Rao is reputed to have been one of Mrs. Gandhi's closest associates in the ruling Congress.

The dissidents' convention adopted a political resolution urging President Giani Zail Singh to dismiss Mr. Gandhi's government, PTI said.

It also charged the Congress central command with demoralising the party's rank and file by the "illegal and arbitrary" expulsion of "Indira loyalists," the news agency added.

The dissidents also adopted an economic resolution charging Mr. Gandhi with shifting consciously from his mother's economic policies, PTI said. It was taken to be a reference to Mr. Gandhi's policy of liberalisation and opening up the country's economy to foreign investment.

PTI did not say what the strength of the new party was. It only said the dissidents present at the convention included several former members of parliament, and state lawmakers.

The launching of the new party climaxed a long battle within the Congress-I, with a section accusing Mr. Gandhi, who is also the party president, of deliberately neglecting senior members and making himself inaccessible to the party's rank and file.

Congress-J Party Merges With Congress-I

BK250750 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] The Congress-J led by Mrs Indrani Devi, wife of the late Mr Jagjivan Ram, today merged with the Congress-I. Announcing this in New Delhi today, the Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, told newsmen that the merger is without any preconditions. He said the Congress-J office bearers met the Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, this morning and submitted before him a resolution earlier passed by the Congress-J Working Committee to merge the party with the Congress-I. The resolution was signed by Mrs Indrani Devi and other office bearers. Mr Arjun Singh said that the merger proposal was approved by Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Congress-J Working Committee members were also present at the press briefing. Mr Arjun Singh described the merger as a beginning of a process of consolidation of all democratic and socialist forces.

Soviet Official Speaks on Cooperation

BK240332 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] The vice president of the Soviet Union, Mr Tatliyev [title as heard], has expressed the hope that India and his country will cooperate in lessening nuclear war threat and promoting peace. Addressing the 15th anniversary of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation in New Delhi yesterday, he made a special reference to the 6-nation nuclear test ban call at Ixtapa, Mexico and the efforts of the Nonaligned Movement. He regretted that the U.S. administration has not responded to the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union. He hoped the forthcoming visit of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, will further strengthen the peace efforts and mutual cooperation.

Gandhi Foresees Possible Summit Disruption

BK221613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government does not intend to bring in an ordinance in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha under Article 249 of the Constitution unless compelled by circumstances. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi today. He said the government wanted to bring a bill in this session itself, following the passage of the resolution. But, he pointed out that the government has to be extremely cautious and circumspect in the matter. Care has to be taken to ensure that

the center does not lay down a precedent which might be found unhealthy.

Speaking about the revised 20-point [socioeconomic] program, the prime minister said the thrust of the program now is toward removal of poverty. He said members of parliament are likely to be involved in supervizing the administration for monitoring the satisfactory implementation of the program. Mr Gandhi said the 20-point program is not just the government's program; it is a movement of the people.

Turning to the international scene, the prime minister referred to the forthcoming nonaligned summit at Harare. He did not rule out the possibility of South Africa trying to sabotage the meeting. Mr Gandhi said those who are likely to be hurt by the success of the summit may try their best to create problems and a split.

Speaking about South-South cooperation, the prime minister said it is now a recognized concept for overall socioeconomic development of the developing countries.

Earlier, the prime minister addressed the Executive Committee of the parliamentary party. The parliamentary party secretary, Mr Hari Krishna Shastri, told newsmen that some members raised the question about the approach of the government toward the public sector in view of certain articles by a cabinet minister which had appeared in the newspapers.

The prime minister said the views expressed in the articles are not those of the government. He said it is absolutely necessary to ensure that the public sector undertakings work efficiently. The success of the seventh plan depends on the satisfactory performance of the public sector and for this every effort has to be made to streamline the functioning of the public sector. The question of a u-turn or going back from the present policy relating to the public sector does not arise, he added.

Main Conspirator in Longowal Murder Case Arrested

BK241624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] In Punjab, Gurmail Singh of Phagwara, the main conspirator in Sant Harchand Singh Longowal's murder case, has been arrested by the Bhatinda police. An official spokesman told our correspondent that after the murder Gurmail Singh had crossed to Pakistan and reentered India in February this year. He along with another accomplice was involved in incident of scooter snatching and robbing a person in Bhatinda District yesterday. Two pistols and some cartridges have been recovered from h im. The other person arrested with Mr Gurmail Singh is a student and a resident of (Phulta).

Three Killed by Suspected Terrorists in Punjab

BK241250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] In Punjab, three occupants of a car were shot dead by two scooter-borne suspected terrorists near Moga in Faridkot District this afternoon. The police and the paramilitary forces have cordoned off the area and search for the culprits is on.

Five 'Intruders' Killed on Pakistani Border

NC231928 Paris AFP in English 1918 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 23 (AFP) — Five intruders from Pakistan were shot dead on the border in the northern Indian state of Punjab Friday, the para-military Border Security Forces here said Saturday.

A release from BSF headquarters said one person died in a gun battle when he was challenged by a BSF ambush party in Anjala sector of the border.

Another four of a gang died in a similar encounter in Amritsar sector of the state, troubled by a continuing separatist Sikh campaign.

The release did not give the identity of the alleged intruders. Several earlier official statements have said Paksitan has been aiding the Sikh separatists in their cross-border movements. Islamabad has rejected the charge.

Meanwhile, one person was gunned down by suspected separatist Sikhs in a raid on a house in Nanagal Guru village, Punjab on Friday night, the *Press Trust of India* reported Saturday.

Demonstrators in Sind Fired On; 2 Dead

BK230320 Hong Kong AFP in English 0311 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 22 (AFP) — Two people were killed and four were wounded Friday as Security Forces opened fire on demonstrators blocking roads in the southern Pakistani town of Tando Adam, official sources said.

About two dozen people were arrested and police recovered 22 rifles, believed to be weapons that rioters seized from police last Monday, they said.

Elsewhere, Sind Province was reported to be relatively calm on the fifth day of protests by the nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) against a ban on its meetings and the arrest of its top leaders, including Benazir Bhutto, and hundreds of its activitist.

The government decided to provide an armed escort to goods trucks, as the protest caused food and fuel stocks to dwindle, press reports said.

The movement, by erecting roadblocks on the main road out of the port city of Karachi, has caused severe logistical problems, although the protest's political impact may not be immediate.

Some 250 petrol tankers are idled in Karachi, causing a partial fuel shortage elsewhere, and work on at least two oil wells in Sind has been stopped after rioteers attacked government installations in the Badin area, press reports say.

The price of perishable foods has risen alarmingly. Some eight million people in Karachi and its suburbs depend on Sind and Punjab for vegetables and frunit.

A high-level meeting decided to organise transport out of Karachi on a convoy basis from Karachi to Obaro from next Monday, under the promise of full protection from the military, press reports said.

Reports reaching here said that army contingents started patrolling the main highways to ensure a smooth flow of traffic. Troops also guaraded most government buildings following incidents of jail break, attempts to set fire to banks and public property.

The official media Friday meanwhile quoted "rumours" in Sind that Pakistan's traditional rival, India, had infiltrated its "agents" in the country in order to foment trouble.

Clashes Continue, Death Toll 30

BK230856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] In Pakistan, security forces are reported to have stormed a village in Sind and shot dead three opposition workers as blockade of national highways and clashes continued for the 2d week. Fresh reports from Pakistan say that four people got bullet injuries near Miss Benazir Bhutto's home town Larkana when army opened fire on people demanding release of the detained opposition leaders.

At a meeting in Karachi last night, the opposition Movement for Restoration of Democracy [MRD] leaders pledged to continue their struggle to oust General Ziaul Haq and force fresh elections.

Reports from the Punjab Province say a big procession of MRD workers marched through the streets of Lahore yesterday and converged into a rally. Speakers expressed the fear that the country was heading toward another spell of martial law. The protestors chanted antigovernment and anti-U.S. slogans. The death toll in the recent clashes is now reported to be over 30.

Police File Sedition Charges Against Bhutto

BK241248 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Aug 24 (AFP) — Police have filed sedition charges carrying a maximum sentence of life imprisonment against jailed opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and eight other leaders of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), police sources said here Sunday.

The sources said the charges were filed July 31 when Miss Bhutto led a procession of her supporters and addressed a series of meetings in Karachi.

She was arrested on August 14 and detained for 30 days when she addressed another protest rally in defiance of a government ban.

The police case accused Miss Bhutto of instigating the people to rise against the government, and also quoted the speeches of other PPP leaders made on July 31.

Miss Bhutto is accused of violating a section of the penal code which outlaws "attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law". The opposition leader, daughter of hanged former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, has called for the resignation of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the holding of elections.

Miss Bhutto was on Sunday reported to have asked the high court in Sind, in southern Pakistan, to allow her to consult her lawyers in an attempt to fight her detention.

She regarded her imprisonment as "illegal and unconstitutional".

Junejo Press Conference on Political Situation

BK241736 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said he had exchanged views with members of national assembly [MNA's], senators, and provincial ministers in Lahore today on the prevailing situation in the country. He said he had come to Lahore after some time to meet members of the assembly. Addressing a news conference at Lahore airport this evening before his departure for Rawalpindi,after an overnight stay in the provincial capital, the prime minister said the government

had allowed all political parties to take out procession and hold meetings freely to express their views. He said there was no justification for the demand being made by political parties for mid-term elections. The demand was being made by those elements who did not take part in the 1985 elections. The present government is fully representative and constitutional and would continue to function in accordance with its mandate.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said the elected government would adhere to its 5-point program to secure the economic and social well-being of the people. He said members of the National Assembly had told him that they should continue to work for the betterment of the country and concentrate on the implementation of the 5-point program.

The prime minister said as before there is no restriction on political activities as long as these do not jeopardize the country's interests, which remain supreme. The march toward democracy, he added, initiated with the holding of the 1985 elections and spurred with the lifting of martial law would continue unhindered.

He said those indulging in subversive activities or violating the law would be dealt with in accordance with the dictates of law. At the same time, the government would continue to solve political problems on a political plane. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said the country is at present not facing any political issue. The demand for mid-term elections is also not based on any political justification. The government believes in free political activity but this does not mean a license to damage the country.

The prime minister said law and order situation in Sind had largely been created by dacoits [robbers] who had broken away from Sukkur jail.

Replying to a question, he denied the possibility of imposition of governor's rule in Sind.

In reply to another question, the prime minister said the demand for a national government is being raised by those who were out of power and wanted a federal government of their liking. He said such a government would be against the Constitution and the law.

Answering a question, the prime minister said the present government wants to take the country forward politically but administrative measures have to be taken when the law of the land is violated.

He said the government would bring all issues facing the country before the elected representatives of the people in the National Assembly and Senate which were the proper forums for discussion on them. He said a session of the National Assembly is long overdue and would be called soon.

Our Lahore representative says the prime minister's meetings with ministers, MNA's, and senators from the Punjab were also attended by the provincial governor, Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, and the chief minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif. The prime minister has now returned to Rawalpindi.

Labor Bureau To Join Agitation 25 August

BK241602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] In Pakistan, the Labor Bureau, which represents several trade unions in Sind, has announced its decision to launch an agitation from tomorow in support of the current agitation for restoration of democracy. The secretary of the bureau, Mr Abdul Aziz Memon, has also condemned the excesses committed by the law enforcing agencies in Sind. He demanded the immediate release of the Pakistan People's Party leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, and other leaders and the return of the Army to barracks. Mr Memon urged the government to lift the ban on trade union activity and abolition of the contract labor system.

One Killed in Afghan Shellings; Protest Lodged

BK250227 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] The Kabul administration's Armed Forces fired 15 artillery shells at 1215 last Thursday [21 August] which fell on (Sheikh Baba) village, 2 miles south of Nawa Pass in Mohmand Agency, resulting in the death of one Pakistani citizen and injury to another. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday, and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked attack.

Mujahidin Claim 80 Killed in Badakhshan

BK230832 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin claim that they have regained control of (Wadaruj) pass after a week of fierce fighting with Soviet-Kabul forces in Badakhshan Province. (Wadaruj) pass leads to Pamir Valley from the province. The mujahidin say that in this operation they have completely destroyed 14 military posts which were manned mostly by Soviet forces. The mujahidin killed more than 80 Soviet soldiers and captured 92 in addition to seizing a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Ziaul Haq Returns From Saudi Arabia 23 Aug

BK230524 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq returned to Karachi from Saudi Arabia this morning after performing the Hajj pilgrimage.

SRI LANKA

Report of Cease-Fire Offer Welcomed

BK221601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan national security minister has welcomed the informal cease-fire for a month offered by the Tamil militant groups. Addressing Sri Lankan parliament today during the debate on extension of emergency in Sri Lanka, Mr Athulathmudali said the government has got reports of such a cease-fire and if it is so, we welcome it.

The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J. N. Dixit, meanwhile met President Jayewardene and Mr Athulathmudali last evening and apprised them of the talks between the three union ministers [of India] and the militant groups held in Madras. He also assured them of India's full support in the negotiations and expressed the hope that a package of proposals will emerge to bring an end to the ethnic crisis.

Meanwhile, 16 people were killed in Sri Lanka today in different incidents of violence.

Tamils Reject Cease Fire Offer

NC221813 Paris AFP in English 1744 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Report by correspondent Sam Rajappa]

[Text] Madras, India, Aug 22 (AFP) — Tamil militants said Friday they had rejected an Indian Government proposal for a month-long ceasefire because they cannot be "silent spectators" to the killings of Tamils by Sri Lankan Armed Forces.

An Indian ministerial delegation asked the militants Thursday to agree to a ceasefire in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the island nation to help Tamil moderates reach an agreement with Colombo, a spokesman for the five main Tamil groups confirmed here Friday.

But militants agreed "not to take the offensive provided the Sri Lankan Armed Forces did not come out of the barracks for a month," spokesman V. Balakumar told *Agence France-Presse* in this southern Indian city.

However, he added, there have been "provocations" from the island's Armed Forces almost everyday and the militants "cannot remain silent spectators."

Earlier, a top militant leader had said the ceasefire issue was "never discussed" at Thursday's meeting with Indian Foreign Minister P. Shiv Shankar, Home Minister Buta Singh,and Internal Security Minister P. Chidambaram [title as received].

"What we told the Indian ministers was that we will lie low" and not obstruct the talks now under way in Colombo between the Sri Lankan Government and moderate Tamils on ending the island's separatist war, said V. Pirabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE).

"But if the Sri Lankan Army is out and attacks us, we will fight back," he added.

(In Colombo, meanwhile, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told Parliament Friday that intelligence reports indicated one of the major Tamil separatist groups was planning to explode bombs in Colombo to sabotage the peace talks.

("We must be alert. This same group was responsible for exploding bombs in Colombo earlier this year," the national security minister said.

(The Sri Lankan Military Joint Operations Command also warned Tamil militants again Friday that if they continued to attack an Army camp in the northern city of Jaffna security forces would be compelled to retaliate.

(A similar warning had been issued Thursday. Friday's warning, contained in a government statement, said Tamil separatists were continuing mortar attacks on the Army camp and that their objective was to force the Army to retaliate.)

Mr Pirabhakaran and Mr Balakumar said the leaders of the five militant groups told the Indian ministerial delegation they would not stand in the way of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) reaching an agreement with Colombo. "We agreed not to do anything to jeopardise the talks," said Mr Balakumar.

The negotiations, which continued Friday, centre on President Junius Jayewardene's proposal to establish elected provincial councils across Sri Lanka to meet the minority Tamils' demands for greater autonomy.

Parliament Extends State of Emergency 22 Aug

BK221313 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] The motion to extend the emergency was passed in Parliament today with a majority. One hundred and thirty-one voted for the motion while one voted against it. The MP for Kalawana voted against the motion while the Sri Lanka Freedom Party abstained from voting.

Four Civilians Reported Killed in Jaffna 24 Aug

BK241630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 4 civilians, including a woman, were killed, and over 30 others injured in the northern province of Jaffna today. A spokesman of the joint operations command claimed in Colombo that two militants were killed as the special task force fired back when the militants launched mortar attacks on them. However, the reports quoting eyewitnesses say that the security started unprovoked firing of artillery shells on Jaffna town. Life in Jaffna has been paralyzed since this afternoon, and the entire town has plunged into darkness after a power failure. A number of shells hit the central spots in the town like the bus stand and the boundary wall of a hospital.

Khomeyni Meets President Khamene'i, Others

LD240833 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 24, IRNA — On the occasion of 'Id al-GhadirKhom Islamic festivity (18th of Zil Hijja, the day Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh) appointed Imam 'Ali (AS) as his successor, a group of top ranking officials of the country met with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Sunday morning.

President 'Ali Khamene'i, on behalf of the visiting group, congratulated the founder of the Islamic republic on the occasion.

Later Imam Khomeyni spoke to the audience lauding the high status of Imam 'Ali (AS) and his struggles against the enemies of Islam.

Elsewhere in his speech the leader of the Islamic revolution reiterated that Iran would not submit to imposed peace in the war adding that ultimate victory in the Iraqi imposed war was near.

The imam also blamed royal court mullahs for their deviating role and for sowing discord among Muslims.

A more detailed version of the Imam's statements will be carried by IRNA later today.

Khomeyni Speech on Islamic Festival 24 Aug

LD241840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Aug 86

[44-minute speech by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni on the occasion of 'Id al-Ghadir Khom Islamic Festivity, in Tehran on 24 August — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I hope, God willing, that this blessed 'Id will bring joy and blessings to all the meek nations and especially our noble people; I hope, that through His own leadership, the Almighty may grant His special blessing to the people of this great nation who, it must be acknowledged, are Islam's banner-carriers in this age.

What can I tell you about the personality of the Holy Imam ('Ali)? But who is there who can really tell you about him? Those various facets of his personality cannot be comprehended by us or contained in our discussions. He is a complete human being and the personification of those thousands of (?lofty) traits and qualities. This personality embodies (?qualities) and such (?qualities) are concentrated in him that no one can really talk about this matter and I also better be quiet about this matter. But the issue which we can (?discuss) better is that of deviations which have come befroe us, before nations, and particularly for the Shi'ites in the couse of history. Those hands which were responsible for deviating from the course, and the past conspiracies hatched throughout hundreds of years of history, create a problem for the noble lord [Imam 'Ali]. They said the noble lord had created the issue of Ghadir. That noble personage who was the paragon of all sublime qualities has been (?accused) of causing the Ghadir incident. Ghadir had no importance for him. His own personality is what is important. Ghadir merely complements it. God Almighty who had (?ordained) that after the Prophet of Allah, if there is none among men who can implement justice as it should be, and as is acceptable, assigned the Prophet of Allah to nominate such a person who is capable of implementing justice in all its entirety and can set up a divine government.

Therefore, we may not consider the tradition of Ghadir as an attempt to provide a spiritual meaning for the Prophet or the Lord [Imam 'Ali]. What is in our tradition, and what has been analysed about Ghadir down the ages until now, was not due to the dispute about the governmnet. The government is what the imam or the noble lord says it is. It does not matter (?to us). What matters is (?what is dictated by) wisdom.. What is important is that which was implemented by the noble lord (?blessings be upon him) and what his (?associates) were able to do, in accordance with the wisdom endowed on them by the Almighty [words indistinct] but they did not have the opportunity.

The celebration of this feast is not intended to keep the issue alive or to create (?various kinds of controversy). The question is on how to pledge allegiance. We must remember that Ghadir is not dependent (?on these things) but it should affect all in a manner that the noble lord was chosen for this government and should be (?enough) for nations and the officials. The tradition of Ghadir is one of (?selecting) a government and is not controversial. The spiritual aspects are not to be questioned or argued about. Spiritual stations are not to be questioned. The allotment of privileges is not something to inquire about. But this spiritual status which was awarded to the noble lord and [words indistinct] resulted in his selection for government. As we see that in the course of prayer [words indistinct]. It is the lord himself that constitues the ruler [the authority in charge as given in the Koran]. It is his lofty status that led to his selection by the almighty Allah. The question was that of governing and politics and the fact that rule is the science of politics and the total meaning of politics. [passage omitted]

Since the time of Ommawid and Abbasid Khalifates, peace be upon them, there were hands that propagated the thought that religion is one thing and politics and rule are outside it.

These people have been trying to charge with fault Allah, the Prophet of Allah, and the Lord of the Believers. They say that governing is politics and not praying. [passage omitted] those who consider politics as being separate from religion are negating God, the Prophet, and the Lord of the Believers. [passage omitted] At the time of establishment of regency and the return of the rule to the rightful person all such matters will be resolved. All disputes will disappear. [passage omitted] The occasion of Ghadir helps us understand that politics involve everybody. At any time, there should be a government with justice as its politics — a government that can uphold prayers, enforce the Islamic law, organize the Hajj Pilgrimage, and any other matter. The initiators [Saheban-e akhbar] must be situated so that they may extend their reports to the nation with confidence. You must not think that the vice-regency we refer to here is in fact Imamate as appendages of the religion; it is the administration that executes these matters. It is the executive body. [passage omitted] The travellers on Allah's path are not to squat in a corner, saying their prayers all to themselves. [passage omitted]

They say you should not worry about outside events, that you should attend to your teaching, your philosophical deliberations, your spiritual endeavors. [passage omitted]

At this moment, we are still involved with the war and a group of people are meanwhile causing obstructions in this respect. Some of these are educated, also among them are those who are asking for peace of conciliation. They must learn from history. They, the clergymen, imposed on Imam 'Ali an arbitration and also the arbitrators. [historical passage omitted] Today, we have the same situation. They say [words indistinct] let us allow arbitrators, who are sitting and waiting, to carry out the task. We must know who these people are. Doesn't the world recognize the aggressor? We must learn from this tradition and not accept submission to arbitration. This nation has learned over the past 7 years the identity of the arbitrators and those who want to bring peace [passage omitted]

An imposed peace took place in the time of Imam Hassan; similarly, an imposed arbitration occurred in the time of Imam 'Ali. Both these occurrences took place and were perpetrated by plotting individuals. We must learn from these events and refuse to submit to either an imposed peace or an imposed arbitration. We must continue this war, as dictated by ourselves and our nation, and as stated by the entire nation. This war must be continued until, God willing, victory is achieved. The victory, God willing, is near. However, if our nation wishes to see this victory achieved sooner — achieved much sooner, something that serves the interest of our nation, the interest of the Iraqi people as well as that of the region — then it must be mobilized. Our nation, at this juncture, must become mobilized in the true sense of the word for the battlefronts.

The gentlemen say that there are a great many spots in the country where the government has left certain things; that these things are equipment for the Reconstruction Jihad and for the fronts; that these things are extraneous for these places. What I would like to say is that if certain tools and equipment are considered unnecessary for some places, and if the governors and district officers and Friday imams identify such equipment as unnecessary, then it should be sent to the fronts. If you want to see your country develop, if you want to see your country becoming Islamic, and if you want it to happen soon, then you must do your best to mobilize yourselves in order to overthrow this man [Saddam Husayn].

It was stated in the very beginning that Saddam's face would be slapped; he has already been slapped in the face; he is stupefied. He does not know what he is doing now; truly, he does not know what he is doing. On the one hand, he keeps challenging us; on the other, he keeps pleading. One the one hand, he keeps begging and so forth and so on. He has become stupefied. What I fear is that if he loses his sanity, then he would further aggravate the situation. If he loses his sanity as a result of his defeat, then he might cause grievous damage to Iraq, saying, now that I am drowning, then let everyone else be drowned as well; this is the sort of creature we are facing. What I fear is that he might violate the holy shrines of the Shi'ites in Karbala and Najaf. May God finish him off. What must be done is to slap him once more and send him away. That is, either he should commit suicide or flee the country. At any rate, the deviations which emerged following the Id al-Ghadir; the question of our negligence -- I am not referring to everyone, but a great many of us -- and subsequently our insularity and our failure to become involved in the affairs of Muslims culminated in the present difficulties which we are now witnessing throughout Islamic countries. These problems can be seen everywhere.

The Sunni ulema came to believe that they should obey any bully. This situation was brought about by bullies themselves. Is it possible for the Prophet to issue precepts and then add that you should obey Ataturk, who abolishes our precepts? What rational mind can accept this? Is it possible for the Prophet to issue precepts; is it possible for God Almighty to issue precepts, calling on everyone to say their prayer, and then add: Obey Ataturk, who said: Do not say your prayer? Who are we to believe, God or Ataturk? What rational mind can believe this?

What about the supreme ruler and the passages in the Koran? God is the supreme ruler and has so many qualities. It is not rational to expect God Almighty to say you must obey Reza Khan, [Shah's father] who ignored all Islamic and Shari'a aspects; to expect Him to ask us to obey someone who does not believe in religion. Is this possible?

These deviations that have emerged, the deviations brought about by certain powerful hands -- the thing is that we as well as others have become oblivious. Among the deviations in which the powerful hands of the enemies of Islam were involved are the differences existing between nations. There is division between the Sunnis and the Shi'ites.

True, They do differ on a great many issues, and that is how it should be. I am not saying this is not how it should be; yet, this is how it is; after all, they are free to do so. However, this should not lead us to resort to creating obstructions, lest a country manages to drive out America. This, accordingly should not lead us to resort to sabotage, lest we get rid of a person who is engaged in disturbing Islam -- a person who is engaged in destroying a country.

There are certain mullahs, royal court mullahs, who have written books and have published them in Mecca; books about creating division. I fail to see how their minds work. One can only come to the conclusion that these people are servants of America and other countries; that they are forced to utter such words and thus create division. Take our own case; divisions exist; there are those who adhere to Shaykhism, those who follow Sufism, the Akhbaries, or the Osulis [some of the various sects within Islam]. Why should the existence of different ideologies result from extraneous differences? Why should we not get together on what we do agree on?

The thing is that conspirators have promoted a certain way of rearing and teaching us; they have trained us from childhood to act contrarily, doing things differently from others; thus creating division. It is they who take advantage of this division.

I beseech God Almighty to strengthen this Islamic Republic, to consolidate Islam everywhere, to promote Islamic issues everywhere. I beseech God Almighty to restore all the various ideas

into a correct channel, an Islamic path; in a manner to run an Islamic country correctly. God bless you all.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Basij Forces

NC230656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] The imam's representative and spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, who was visiting Khorasan Province, attended a meeting yesterday afternoon before leaving Mashhad for Tehran at which he told the combatants of the Basij forces of the Khorasan Islamic Revolution Guards Corps: Today the force of Islam enjoys indestructible divine power. This force will break the enemy's ranks on the fronts and bring the war to its final stage and victory.

This meeting was attended by the imam's representative and superintendent of the Imam Reza shrine, the commander of the Revolution Guards Corps ground forces, the governor-general, and the military and police commanders of Khorasan Province. During its course, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis gave a detailed address to the fighting Basij forces, saying: You have willingly, zealously, and with strong Basij morale chosen the path of jihad and are devotedly working for the prosperity of Islam, the Koran, and the Islamic revolution. You have always won glory for Islamic Iran. He noted: The combat and specialized forces of Khorasan Province played a determining and major role in various operations, especially during the Val Fajr-VII and Mehran offensives. This devotion will be recorded forever in the history of Islam.

Referring to the weak morale of the Zionist enemy as compared with the combatants of Islam, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Our situation is now such that the enemy is incapable of resisting or confronting our forces. He said: Today the world has accepted the fact that the Iraqi Army is weak and that the force of Islam possesses high combat strength.

Concluding his speech, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council analyzed the importance of forming 500 combat battalions throughout the country and of the readiness of our combat forces, as well as the extensive planning and preparation that have taken place in the Armed Forces and the Corps for the destiny-making operation. He referred to the fear of the arrogant that Iran will be victorious in the imposed war, and said: The conditions in the region and in the world have changed to a great extent. Despite the fact that the arrogant fear Saddam's downfall, nevertheless they are gradually preparing themselves for the ultimate reality which is the victory of the Islamic Republic.

The imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council stated that more forces should be sent out, and emphasized: As the imam has said, we should not reprieve the enemy; once the operation begins, we should not grant the enemy the opportunity to rebuild its strength.

Returns to Tehran from Mashhad

LD221914 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali-Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani concluded his five-day visit to Mashhad and arrived in Tehran Friday afternoon.

During his stay in Mashhad, Hoj. Rafsanjani visited the holy shrine of Imam Reza and inspected agricultural, cattle raising, cultural, and development projects of the Imam Reza's superintendency.

The speaker also visited Martyr Hashemi-Nejad Gas Refinery in Khangiran.

In an interview in Mashhad, Hoj. Rafsanjani told IRNA that the superintendency of the holy shrine of Imam Reza has taken strides in the fields of cattle raising, agriculture, and fish-culturing in the province which will promote the self-sufficiency of the province.

On Iranian gas exports to Soviet Union, the speaker said Iran is ready to export gas to that country which would help cut down oil exports.

Addressing himself to Basij volunteer forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (iRGC) here Rafsanjani said Iranian Muslim Army, deriving its power from God, intends to bring the war to its victorious conclusion.

Volunteer forces of the Khorassan Province played a major role in different operations at the war fronts especially Val Fajr-8 and Mehran offensives, the Hojjat ol-Eslam said.

Prime Minister Warns War at 'Crucial Stage'

LD251107 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 25, IRNA — The Iranian prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, said here Monday that Iran's victory in the Iraqi-imposed war will change profile of the world and will take shackles away from the the deprived masses.

Speaking on the second day of the seminar "Consent to Imam", the prime minister stressed "triumph of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war will mark a new move in human history."

As the Muslim forces of Iran gain greater strength and continue to push the enemy into a corner, analysis of the situation changes which hints vanishing strength of the Baghdad regime and low morale of its forces, said the premier.

More on the six-year-old Iraqi-imposed war he said "we are in a crucial stage, our slightest negligence and weakness will enable our warn out and desperate enemy to reorganize itself."

The premier stressed that the issue of the war was the utmost important task of the government. Although the government has economised some 600 billion rials (U.S. dollars 7.5 billion) in its

current expenditure, not only there has been no reduction in defence spending, but it has been increased.

Ali government organizations, he added, have been mobilized to meet the needs of war fronts. The Islamic Republic of Iran by ending the war triumphantly, he added, will become an increasingly determining power in the world. Therefore, he said, the Iranian nation should strive towards materialisation of this goal.

Saudi Arabia Warned on Hajj Pilgrims' Detention

LD251113 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Monday said that the Saudi officials have arrested a number of Iranian Hajj pilgrims under meaningless pretext and were still keeping them in detention despite Iran's strict notifications.

"We warn the Saudi Arabian Government that we can no longer tolerate the present situation and if the problem is not rapidly solved, it may lead to a dangerous trend in relations between the two countries," the prime minister said.

He stressed that the Saudi Government should have realised that the Islamic Republic of Iran would not leave fate of a number of its nationals in the hands of Saudis. "The government and people of Iran will not sit silent if the Iranian Hajj pilgrims are not released", Musavi added.

They are mistaken if they expect the Iranian Hajj pilgrims to abandon their "immunity from pagans" demonstration during Hajj rituals, he said, adding that if the Saudi Government is not collaborating with pagans it should therefore welcome the Iranian pilgrims' move.

Stressing that Iran's patience was limited, the prime minister said that Saudi measure would only please enemies of Islam. The Saudi Government, the prime minister said, by attributing unfounded accusations to more than hundred Iranian Hajj pilgrims, has arrested them, prevented them from fully observing Hajj rituals, and refrained from allowing them to return to their country.

"We expect the Saudi Government in a rational move immediately make arrangements for safe return (?of the Iranians)," Musavi said.

Foreign Minister Velayati Departs for Damascus

NC240615 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Aug 86

[Text] Our foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, left for Damascus this morning at the head of a delegation to participate in the fifth Iran-Syria-Libya joint session. Before leaving Tehran he spoke to our correspondent. We draw your attention to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, what is the objective of your trip to Syria and (?how many days) will you be there?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the Almighty. The trip to Syria is a scheduled one. I will participate in the fifth session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Libya. These sessions began about 2 years ago. The first session was held in Tehran and the second in Damascus. The third was in Tripoli and the fourth was held early this [Iranian] year in Tehran. It is now Damascus' turn.

We had arranged with our Syrian and Libyan friends to meet on the eve of the nonaligned summit in Zimbabwe and to discuss both current and (?long-standing) issues and to recapitulate our views in relation with nonaligned affairs. This is because cooperation between the three Muslim countries of Syria, Iran, and Libya, both in the region and at international forums such as the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference, has so far yielded very good political results for all three. In view of the fact that the political stancesof these three countries have many points in common and that there are substantial similarities in our policies, we should use these points and similarities to advance our common goals, the most important of which is to confront Zionism and imperialism in the region. In these sessions, we usually discuss and follow close, or more precisely, similar, stands on the Palestinian question and the Iran-Iraq war, as well as how to confront the hostilities and enemies in the region, especially in Muslim countries and among the nonaligned. We also talk about cooperation in the political, economic, and other fields. We hope that this session too, like the sessions before it, will be useful for all three countries.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Condemns Attacks on Iraqi Kurds

LD231730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Following the bombing of Kurdish villages in northern Iraq by the Turkish Air Force, and the military transformations following the bombing, a spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry stated: The attack on the villages inhabited by innocent Kurdish people in Iraq under the pretext of tracing groups opposed to the Turkish Government causes us concern and regret. Believing in the territorial integrity of all the countries of the region, the Islamic Republic considers such interferences as violations of Iraq's independence and meddling in its internal affairs. The Islamic Republic therefore condemns them.

Continuing his remarks, he added: The killing of women and children and other innocent people, particularly where Kurdish opponents of the Iraqi regime are engaged in a struggle against the tyrannical rule and oppression of the Ba'thist regime, is not in the intereest of relations between the Turkish people and the Muslim Iraqi people. Consequently, the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot possibly approve of it.

He added: We are following the situation in northern Iraq with sensitivity and care and, considering the joint and comprehensive

struggle by the Islamic Republic and the Muslim Iraqi people against the Saddam regime, we cannot remain indifferent to developments in the region.

Concluding his remarks, he said: The ever-increasing decline of the Iraqi regime as well as the inability of the regime to control its borders cannot justify any operations inside its territory or any attack against the Kurdish people. We therefore call on the Turkish Government to put an end to its operations immediately and, in view of that country's stated policy concerning its neutrality in this imposed war, avoid preventing the movement of Kurdish fighters against the Saddam regime.

Oil Minister Discusses Soviet Oil Policy

LD231050 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 23 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 23, IRNA — The Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday described the recent measure of the Soviet Union to reduce its oil exports by 100,000 barrels per day as very important.

Speaking in a press conference he told reporters that the Soviet move is important in the light of its limited oil exports to the West.

He further described cooperation of the Soviet Union with OPEC in improving the situation in oil market as a practical step in the direction of anti-imperialist campaign.

While the U.S. and its western allies attempt to offset effects of the recent OPEC decision concerning reduced oil production, on oil market, the Soviet move marks a cooperation of non-OPEC with OPEC oil producers.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry official Friday announced that following the request of Iran calling for reduction in Soviet oil production, his country decided to cut its oil exports to Western Europe by 100,000 barrels during the months of September and October. The request was made during a recent visit of the Iranian oil minister to Moscow.

When asked to comment on effectiveness of the recent OPEC meeting to reduce the organisation's production ceiling to 16 million barrels per day, he said that all OPEC members have individually promised to stand by the quotas. The Saudis have announced that they have already started reducing their output to reach the quota set by the OPEC Geneva meeting by September, the Iranian oil minister added.

Other than Britain and Norway, all non-OPEC oil producers have expressed their readiness to cooperate with OPEC and it seems that beginning September the OPEC measures will be carried out effectively, said Aqazadeh.

As further steps, the Iranian oil minister told reporters that he will travel to China and several countries of the Persian Gulf region, Africa, and Latin American by the end of this week. The objective behind these visits, also undertaken by other OPEC members, he added, is to secure cooperation of the non-OPEC members.

At the end he told reporters that the Geneva OPEC decision is only the beginning of a series of measures which will have greater impact on improving the oil prices.

Gas Exports to USSR To Resume

LD251128 Tehran IRNA in English 1114 GMT 25 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA — Iran will export three million cubic meters of gas per day to the Soviet Union beginning 1986 to be increased to 80 to 90 million cubic meters per day by March 1990, it was announced here Monday.

Iran and the Soviet Union agreed to study possibilities for resumption of export of Iranian gas to the USSR during the recent visit of Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh to Moscow.

The idea of resuming gas exports to the Soviet Union started when Iran planned to diversify its revenues of foreign exchange.

Iran's gas exports to the USSR dates back to 1970 when through the Igat-1 pipeline, natural gas was carried to the Soviet Union and from there to Europe. By 1979 when Iran halted gas exports to the USSR due to disagreement on prices, Iran had exported 25 million cubic meters of gas at prices far lower than international market price.

Prior to Aqazadeh's talks in Moscow, Iran had signed an agreement with Turkey for the construction of a pipeline carrying Iranian gas to Europe via Turkey. Therefore, it seems that due to rich natural gas resources of Iran, second in the world, Iranian officials are determined to bring in more foreign exchange by exporting this item.

Meanwhile, the Soviet officials are seeking a long-term agreement with Iran with strict provisions for the both sides to observe implementation of the pact under any circumstances.

In exporting its gas, the Islamic Republic of Iran gives priority to its neighbouring countries and would export the remaining to other countries, especially those in Europe.

However, experts of both countries will study the condition of Igat-1 pipeline and will prepare a technical report by November this year. The report will be possibly studied at a joint session to finalize it, the result of which is expected to be optimistic.

Military Situation 21-22 August Reported

LD221802 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Artillery fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants damaged and destroyed four Iraqi vehicles, a loader, and a tank, and killed 16 enemy soldiers here Thursday and Friday.

A munitions dump, a loader, four single bunkers, and two observation posts of the Iraqi troops were destroyed when their positions came under Iranian artillery fire in Sibeh, inside Iraq. 13 Iraqi soldiers were also killed or wounded.

Iranian combatants disrupted Iraqi engineering activities on Al-Faw-Abu al-Khasib military route during the said period.

Several houses and shops were damaged in Abadan, Khuzestan Province as a result of Iraqi long range artillery fire Thursday and Friday.

Communique 2571 Reports Interception of Ships

LD221645 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 22 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA — Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran intercepted three foreign trade ships in the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, but allowed them to proceed on their voyage since they had no cargo destined for Iraq, according to a military communique released here Friday.

Communique Number 2,571 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian gendarmerie fire killed or wounded 19 Iraqi soldiers in the southern fronts, destroying several group bunkers and observation posts, a munitions depot as well as two vehicles of the enemy.

Muslim combatants of Iran, the communique said, subjected pre-determined enemy targets to their artillery and tank fire killing and wounding some Iraqi soldiers on Thursday. Also enemy equipment sustained heavy damage in the shelling.

In north-western fronts, Iraqi gun emplacements were shelled and an observation post as well as a heavy vehicle of the enemy forces destroyed, said the communique.

Iranian patrol groups were dispatched to reconnoiter enemy positions throughout the battlefronts, the communique said.

Iraqi positions and fortifications were shelled in western fronts as a result of which some enemy troops were killed or wounded. Two enemy supply vehicles, two heavy engineering vehicles, as well as two group bunkers of the enemy forces were destroyed in the shelling.

The communique said that the Iranian artillery fire pounded Iraqi armoured units in Pich-e Angizeh operational theater, halting movements of the enemy.

The city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was hit by Iraqi long-range artillery fire over the past week as a result of which some places and installations were damaged, according to the communique.